

Agency Activities and Monitored Issues

2014 Milestones

The 2014 Milestones released to the Sound Transit Board in January, included the start of tunnel work on the Northgate Link Extension, First Hill Streetcar services begins, and completing construction substantially on the Tukwila Sounder station and the University of Washington Link station.

In total, there are 34 milestones in 2014. Last year, the agency completed nearly 90 percent of its 34 milestones, one of the highest completion rates ever.

Much of Sound Transit's work in 2014 will be continuing to plan and build light rail extensions north, south, and east. In addition, this year, the Board will consider updating the Long-Range Plan, which helps shape where mass transit goes after currently funded projects in 2023 are completed.

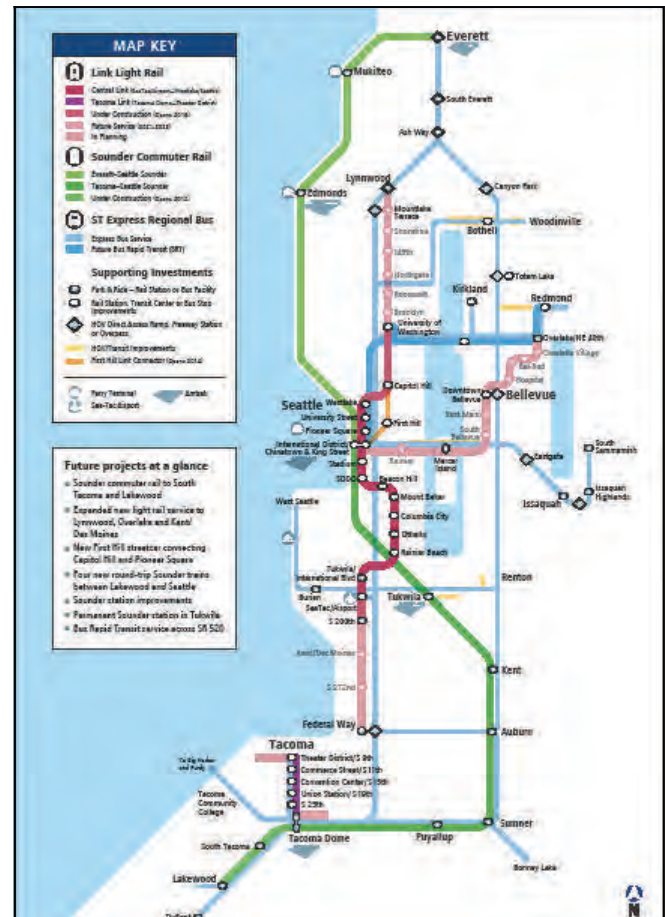
2014 Sustainability Targets

Sound Transit unveiled its 2014 Sustainability Targets in January. The targets show the agency has continued focus on integrating sustainable design into the early planning process, final design, and construction of projects. In addition, the agency's first Sustainability Plan will be updated this year.

In 2013, the agency completed nearly 88 percent of its Sustainability Targets.

New Board members welcomed

Seattle Mayor Ed Murray, Seattle Councilmember Mike O'Brien, and King County Councilmember Dave Upthegrove joined the Board in 2014. In addition, King County Executive Dow Constantine is chair for the next two years with Everett Councilmember Paul Roberts and Tacoma Mayor Marilyn Strickland as vice chairs.



Current and future transit improvements

New buses ordered

The Sound Transit Board approved the purchase of 22 new buses, including five new double-deckers. The double-deck buses, built by Alexander Dennis Co. for \$5.1 million. The buses are 42 feet long and can carry 77 passengers. The buses are expected to arrive in May 2015.

The Board also approved a contract with the Gillig Corporation to manufacture and deliver 17 compressed natural gas buses for \$9.9 million, including taxes and contingency. The 40-foot long buses are expected to arrive in December 2015. The Gillig buses will replace buses that have been in operation over 12 years or have more than 500,000 miles.

Agency Activities and Monitored Issues *continued*

Record ridership in 2013

Sound Transit carried a record number of passengers in 2013 with more than 30.3 million boardings, an 8 percent increase from a year earlier.

ST Express buses ridership reached 16.6 million in 2013, an increase of 7.6 percent. Sounder train ridership totaled over 3 million boarding, up 8 percent. Central link light rail reached 9.7 million, up 11 percent. Tacoma Link light rail boardings declined in 2013, down 2.3 percent for the year.

Total boardings in 2013 were just over 1 million.

Seahawks record

The Seahawks Super bowl victory parade Feb. 5 was a record-breaking ridership day for Sound Transit trains and buses. Parade day boardings totaled nearly 195,000 compared with just over 100,000 boardings on an average weekday; ridership that day was almost double our average weekday.

Pilot Parking project

Sound Transit launched a six-month pilot project at four of its stations to test permit-only parking for regular transit customers. Although the majority of parking spaces remain free for transit customer use, a limited number of spaces are reserved for the pilot program at Sound Transit facilities in Mukilteo, Issaquah, Sumner, and Tukwila. Reserved parking area at those stations are clearly marked with signs and colored lines.

Permit parking is being tested, as the agency ensures that parking is available first for transit users in lots that are becoming increasingly crowded.

After the pilot program ends in the summer of 2014, the results will be presented to the Sound Transit Board for review and consideration of future steps.

New communication director

Craig Davison became Sound Transit's Executive Director of Communications and External Affairs in March. Mr. Davison has over 18 years of global marketing and communications experience, most recently leading the product marketing for Microsoft's Xbox games and the online entertainment service, Xbox live.

Mr. Davison replaced Ron Klein, who retired after five years leading the Communications and External Affairs department.

ST train Exhibit

In early January, Sound Transit teamed with the Seattle Children's Museum to open a new permanent interactive exhibit, called "Sound Transit Station," at the Seattle Children's Museum.

The agency worked closely with the museum on the exhibit, created by Sound Transit Graphic Designer, Darrius Wells. The exhibit includes a large toy train table with artwork based on the Puget Sound region, along with a photo booth area with a replica light rail train at the Beacon Hill Station.

The Seattle Children's Museum is a 22,000 square foot play space located on the Seattle Center campus.

Watch light rail

Webcams were added at the Roosevelt and U District; the public is able to watch the work in progress. A webcam is also up at Sound Transit's Maple Leap Portal construction site. Images are updated every 15 minutes.

In addition, you can also watch a time-lapse movie to see all the project progress to date. The webcam views are available at the Sound Transit website.

The construction sites are part of the 4.3 mile Northgate Link Extension, which connects the Northgate, Roosevelt, and U District neighborhoods to downtown Seattle and the airport. The extension opens for service in 2021.